

THE BUILDINGS OF MOREFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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GWYNT-Y-MÔR

North Parade, Morfa Borth

At the north end of the village with the sea across the road. Formerly called Caradog and then Gerydon. Built after 1904 but by 1910, later than the terrace houses next door and not to exactly the same design.



LEFT Gwynt-y-môr in 2015.

Gwynt-y-môr is a three storey, single fronted, end of terrace house, under a gable roof parallel with the road. Roof lights in the front and back give light to an attic floor. There are no chimneys on the main roof and decorated red ridge tiles. The walls are rendered and may be brick or rubble stone at this date. The bay windows on the ground and first floors are square bay windows, unlike the canted bay windows of the rest of the terrace. Beneath the upper bay window is a prominent string course (line of moulding)

which continues on the main wall of the house and over the front door. The rendering has decorative panels, and the front door is emphasized by pilaster strips either side, and a simple moulded entablature supported by brackets, and with a row of dentils below it.

RIGHT The front door.

There is a narrow front garden enclosed by a low rendered wall, probably of brick. The front door opens into an inner porch, which opens into a passage which has the staircase to the upper floors. Opening off the passage is a lounge with the bay window, and beyond is a kitchen with double doors opening into the garden. On the first floor the chief bedroom has the bay window, and over the front door is a bathroom.



At the back is another bedroom with a view out across the railway and the Cors Fochno to the hills. The second floor has two bedrooms one at the front and one at the rear. Above is an attic room.



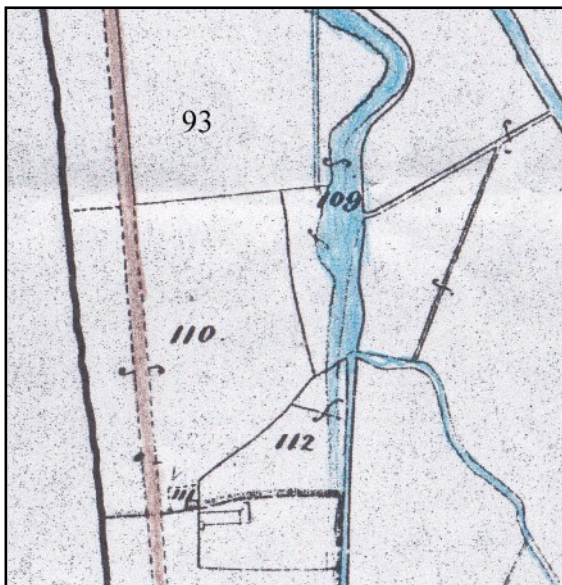
LEFT The north side of the house in 2015. Interestingly the string course along the front does not connect with one at the side, and another division is made across the ends of the gable. There are no windows in the wall. In the foreground is an annexe, of two storeys with a kitchen/breakfast room and living room downstairs, and upstairs two bedrooms and a bathroom. This can be used for letting to holiday makers. Alongside the wall round the garden is a lane or track which curves round to run along the back of the terrace houses.



LEFT The rear of the house in 2015 with the front door of the annexe. A red brick wall divides this house from the one next door. The house has a garage by the lane.

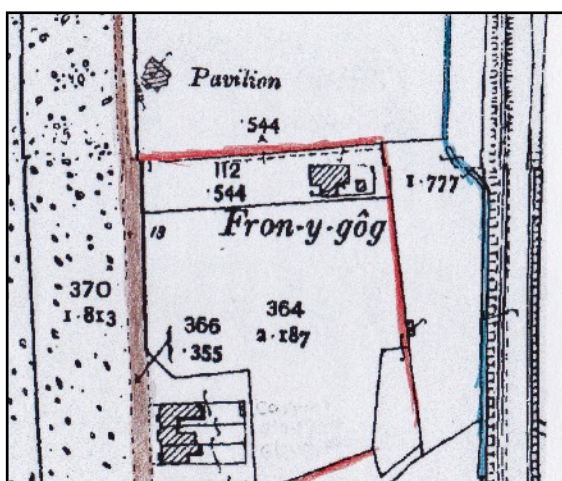
The ground on which Gwynt-y-môr stands is a stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. The road had been there for centuries, it was used in the twelfth

century and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.



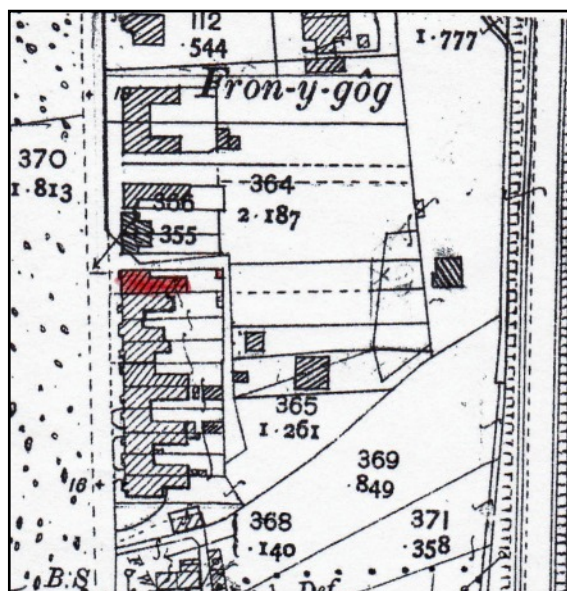
LEFT The house stands on a five acre field called an 'allotment' which was number 110 on a map of 1848. Pryse Pryse of the Gogerddan Estate received it after the enclosure of the 'waste' and used it as pasture. Number 93 to the north was the property of the Jones family of the Gwynfryn Estate at Taliesin and had become an eighteen hole golf course before this house was built. (Tithes Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Henllys Township, online at CYNEFIN, National Library of Wales).

In 1891 Pryse Pryse sold some of Number 110 to Elsie Cecil Wright, the wife of a Birmingham manufacturer of screws and a keen golfer. She had the bungalow Fron-y-gôg built on a strip of it, and had four acres of agricultural land as well. (Deeds to Morlais, private collection)



LEFT In 1904 there were no other buildings on the part of Number 110 where the house stands today. However some houses in the terrace had already been built. The red line shows the boundary of the old field 110 (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire III.10)

RIGHT The Council used the 1905 map and drew in newly built houses - this map dates from after 1935 because Brockhill had been built in the garden of Fron -y-gôg. Gwynt-y-môr is coloured red and already had a substantial wing at the back. The tiny building at the end of the garden was probably its Ty Bach - outside lavatory. (Map Ceredigion Archives)



Jenkin Jones of Tyrol built this house. (Cambrian News, 8 February 1907). He moved from there to this house. In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, the house was called Caradog, and was valued at £650 - the value of a good new house. There would have been £17 to pay, £20 gross. The owner and occupier was Jenkin Jones. Mr Jones also owned Eversley and Miramar and other houses, but he chose to live in this one and called it 'Caradog House'. (Ceredigion Archives, T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales). Caradog as well as being a heroic Welshman was also a fine sailing

vessel, a barque, whose master in 1895 was Borth's Captain Lewis Williams. In the house at the 1911 Census was Jenkin Jones who was 55 years old and a plasterer. This must have been a good occupation for him to be able to own several houses or he was from a wealthy family. With him in Caradog was his wife Margaret and they had been married for 31 years. Both were local. Also in the house were their daughters; J. E. Jones aged 30 and unmarried, Maggie 16 and Gladys 14. They had all been born in Borth. The house had eleven main rooms. In the 1920s Caradog was advertised as having furnished accommodation to let of six bedrooms and three sitting rooms (Illustrated Borth Guide, Aberystwyth Public Library).

In 1925 the owner was Mrs Margaret Jones, and the occupier was Captain John Herbert. The house had a new Welsh name 'Gerydon'. Captain Herbert worked for the 'Coast Lines Shipping Company. He had moved to the house from Break House in Borth High Street. Both his sons went to sea, James Lewis Herbert became a captain. This two daughters did not marry (Terry Davies, Borth; A Maritime History pages 84-86). In July 1924 Miss Rosa Herbert was secretary of Borth's Red Cross. Also that month her sister Doris helped on a Fancy Work Stall at Women's Institute Sale of Work at the National School now gone, the Meddygfa is built there (Cambrian News July 1924)



LEFT The house in about 1921, a detail from a postcard. It had a large slab chimney with six chimney pots (flues) so plenty of rooms were warmed. The extension at the back had a chimney too, which is still there. This would have served a kitchen below. In the front the top of the upper bay window was taller to hide its roof, and the string courses are very prominent. (Postcard private collection)

In March 1935 the rates were increased as the house then had a garage. Captain Herbert paid the rates in 1938. Captain and Mrs Herbert and their daughters had a vote for the house in the General Election of 1945, and in 1949 Miss Rosa and Miss Doris paid the rates.

By 1950 there was a new family in the house, and the house had its present name, Gwynt-y-môr - in Welsh sea wind or sea breeze. Mr Edwards advertised a 'flat to let', and also four bedrooms, one sitting room and a kitchenette with all mod. Cons. (Guide to Borth, Aberystwyth Public Library). Mr Edwards paid the rates in 1957 and 1963. With votes for the house that year were Brian Draycott Edwards, Lilian R. Edwards and Owen Edwards (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).



In the centre of this aerial photograph, dated between 1956 and 1959 there seem to be windows in the gable end of the house. The chimney in the extension now the annexe is easy to see. The garage was at the end of the garden. (Detail from a photograph courtesy of the Aberystwyth Public Library).



ABOVE This photograph of Gwynt-y-mor shows the front with bold patterns of columns and string courses decorating the pair of bay windows. The ladies are Doris and Rosa Herbert, and one of the men is John Emlyn Herbert who died at sea.

(Photograph courtesy of Mrs Jean Caswall)

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Hoffem ddiolch i Beryl am fod mor garedig â chaniatáu i ni rannu ei gwaith â'r gynulleidfa ehangaf bosibl.

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Houses of Borth consists of over 350 histories of individual buildings, lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and documents. All the files are available from our website: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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